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CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073.

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AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and add claims 2-30 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version set forth below. Entry is respectfully requested. A version with markings to show the changes made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix A.

(Amended) 1. A product comprising man-made vitreous fibres formed of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	18 to 30%

CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to below 5%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition has a viscosity at 1400°C of 10 to 70 poise,

and the fibres have a dissolution rate of at least 20 nm per day determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5.

(New) 2. A product according to claim 1 in which the amount of MgO is 5 to 20%, the amount of FeO is 5 to below 10%, the amount of TiO₂ is 0.5 to 4%, the amount of SiO₂ is 32 to 45%, and the amount of Other Elements is 0 to below 8%.

(New) 3. A product according to claim 1 in which the amount of SiO₂ is not more than 42.0%, and the amount of Al₂O₃ is at least 19.0%.

(New) 4. A product according to claim 1 in which the amount of SiO₂ is not more than 42.0%, the amount of Al₂O₃ is at least 20.0%.

(New) 5. A method of making man-made vitreous fibre products comprising selecting a composition in the form of a mineral melt and forming fibres from the melt wherein

a melt viscosity and a fibre dissolution rate in the presence of macrophages and/or at a pH in the range 4-5 are determined for the composition and

a composition is selected which has a viscosity at 1400°C of 10 to 70 poise and which provides fibres which have a dissolution rate determined from the silica

concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day, and which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	12 to 26%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to below 5%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and vitreous fibres are made from the selected composition.

(New) 6. In a method which comprises employing biologically acceptable man-made vitreous fibres, utilizing as the biologically acceptable man-made vitreous fibres, fibres formed of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	12 to 26%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to below 5%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition having a viscosity of 1400°C of 10 to 70 poise,

and the fibres having a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day.

(New) 7. A package containing a man-made vitreous fibre product wherein the fibres are formed of a composition having an analysis, as oxides, which includes

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	12 to 26%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to below 5%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition having a viscosity of 1400°C of 10 to 70 poise,

and the fibres have a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day,

and the package includes a label or insert referring to solubility at pH 4 to 5 and/or in environment created by macrophages in lung fluid.

(New) 8. Vitreous fibers which are biologically acceptable utilizing fibres of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	12 to 30%
CaO	10 to 28%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to below 5%
TiO ₂	0 to 4%
Other Elements	0 to 8%

which has a viscosity of 1400°C of 10 to 70 poise, and which provides fibres having a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day.

(New) 9. Vitreous fibres according to claim 8 in the form of a bonded MMVF batt suitable for use as external roof or wall cladding or as pipe sections.

(New) 10. Vitreous fibres according to claim 8 in which the amount of Al_2O_3 is 12 to 28%.

(New) 11. Vitreous fibres according to claim 10 in which the amount of Al_2O_3 is 18 to 26%.

(New) 12. Vitreous fibres according to claim 8 in which the amount of FeO is 5 to 10%.

(New) 13. Vitreous fibres according to claim 8 in which the amount of TiO_2 is 0.5 to 4%.

(New) 14. Vitreous fibres according to claim 8 in which the combined amount of SiO_2 and Al_2O_3 is 56 to 68%.

(New) 15. A package according to claim 7 in which the amount of Al_2O_3 is 12 to 28%.

(New) 16. A package according to claim 7 in which the amount of Al_2O_3 is 18 to 26%.

- (New) 17. A package according to claim 7 in which the amount of FeO is 5 to 10%.
- (New) 18. A package according to claim 7 in which the amount of TiO₂ is 0.5 to 4%.
- (New) 19. A package according to claim 7 in which the combined amount of SiO₂ and Al₂O₃ is 56 to 68%.
- (New) 20. A method according to claim 5 in which the amount of Al₂O₃ is 12 to 28%.
- (New) 21. A method according to claim 5 in which the amount of Al₂O₃ is 18 to 26%.
- (New) 22. A method according to claim 5 in which the amount of FeO is 5 to 10%.
- (New) 23. A method according to claim 5 in which the amount of TiO₂ is 0.5 to 4%.
- (New) 24. A method according to claim 5 in which the combined amount of SiO₂ and Al₂O₃ is 56 to 68%.
- (New) 25. A product comprising man-made vitreous fibres formed of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| SiO ₂ | 32 to 48% |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 18 to 30% |
| CaO | 10 to 30% |

MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to 10%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition has a liquidus temperature and viscosity suitable for fiberising by a cascade spinner process,

and the fibres have a dissolution rate of at least 20 nm per day determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5.

(New) 26. A method of making man-made vitreous fibre products comprising selecting a composition in the form of a mineral melt and forming by a cascade spinner process fibres from the melt wherein

a melt viscosity and a fibre dissolution rate in the presence of macrophages and/or at a pH in the range 4-5 are determined for the composition and

a composition is selected which has a liquidus temperature and viscosity suitable for fiberising by said cascade spinner cascade process and provides fibres which have a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day, and which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	18 to 30%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to 12%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and vitreous fibres are made from the selected composition.

(New) 29. In a method which comprises employing biologically acceptable man-made vitreous fibres, utilizing as the biologically acceptable man-made vitreous fibres, fibres formed of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	18 to 30%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to 12%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition has a liquidus temperature and viscosity suitable for fiberising by said cascade spinner cascade process,

and the fibres having a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day.

(New) 28. A package containing a man-made vitreous fibre product wherein the fibres are formed of a composition having an analysis, as oxides, which includes

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	18 to 30%
CaO	10 to 30%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to 12%
TiO ₂	0 to 6%
Other Elements	0 to 15%

and the composition having a liquidus temperature and viscosity suitable for cascade spinning,

and the fibres have a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day,

and the package includes a label or insert referring to solubility at pH 4 to 5 and/or in environment created by macrophages in lung fluid.

(New) 29. Vitreous fibers which are biologically acceptable utilizing fibres of a composition which includes, by weight of oxides,

SiO ₂	32 to 48%
Al ₂ O ₃	12 to 30%
CaO	10 to 28%
MgO	2 to 20%
FeO	2 to 15%
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0 to 12%
TiO ₂	0 to 4%
Other Elements	0 to 8%

which has liquidus temperature and viscosity suitable for cascade spinning,
and the fibres having a dissolution rate determined from the silica concentration in solution one day and four days after shaking the fibres in Gambles solution at pH 4.5 of at least 20 nm per day.